

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4784

EXDIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 2

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON KOREAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: USIA 15774

1. I WOULD LIKE TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION REFTEL WHICH PROVIDES USIA MEDIA GUIDANCE ON POLITICAL DISSENT IN KOREA. THIS WILL BE READ HERE AS A STRONG US OFFICIAL CONDEMNATION OF ROKG POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. I AM ACTING UNDER THE SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY PRESSURE THE ROKG WITH REGARD TO ITS INTERNAL SITUATION. IF THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE CHANGED, I CAN THINK OF BETTER WAYS TO INFLUENCE ROKG TO CHANGE ITS WAYS THAN TO BEGIN BY PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF KOREAN ACTIVITIES THROUGH US OFFICIAL MEDIA.

2. IF WE ARE REACHING A STAGE WHERE WE WISH TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN CLEARLY AND WISH TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN ROK INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION BY OUR ACTIONS OR BY OUR PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF VIEWS, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT I FIRST BE INSTRUCTED IN QUITE SPECIFIC TERMS AS TO WHAT I SHOULD SAY OFFICIALLY TO RESPONSIBLE KOREAN OFFICIALS. IF WE ARE GOING TO GET THEM TO CHANGE
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04784 241041Z

THEIR WAYS, I MUST ALSO HAVE AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY

LEVERAGE TO PUT MEANING BEHIND OUR WORDS. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT SOME RESULTS COULD STEM FROM QUIET DIPLOMACY, ALTHOUGH I AM NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC THAT IT WILL BE EASY TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE REGIME'S DETERMINATION TO WIELD POLITICAL AUTHORITY WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL DISSENT.

3. I REALIZE THAT WE NEED TO KEEP CLEAR OUR PUBLIC POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT UNTIL WE ARE DECIDED IN OUR MINDS ON THE ISSUES I RAISE ABOVE, I SUGGEST THE USIA MEDIA GUIDANCE CITED BE MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE PRINCIPLES WITHOUT DIRECT CONDEMNATION OF A PARTICULAR COUNTRY.

HABIB

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. KURZE.

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